



Exchange Report

University of Exeter, UK

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Part I - Monthly Activity Log

September

I took the flight to London with my other classmates from HKUST and arrived Heathrow on 15th September, 2019. We bought the tickets of the National Express bus to Exeter but it was overloaded with luggage, so we had to wait and take another bus and spent about 5 hours until we reached Exeter, so be reminded that National Express buses are inconvenient in some cases. We settled down in the house that we rent for these few months. I familiarize with the place for a few days and located all the Asian supermarket or restaurants near my house. I also opened a bank account in HSBC UK. During the Fresher's Week, I joined three societies in the university and went to their tasting sessions. Later that month, my friends and I visited Plymouth for a short trip, but the weather was quite bad as you can see from the photo.



October

The workload from the modules was still light in October, I was able to balance my academic life and social life with friends. I joined a few gathering events held by the society and met some new friends. One society that I joined in UoE is the K-pop society, and I went to their dance tutorial with my friend, it was fun and the atmosphere was quite good. I also managed to visit my friend who studies in Warwick, I spent a few days there. During the month, I also had to prepare for the lectures every week as most of the professors required us to finish the readings they assigned before class. I also had meetings with my groupmates of the modules that had group projects. On 31st October, I went to a Halloween event held by a society with my friends, we dressed up as vampires and did Halloween makeups!

November



There were more assignments and mid-terms during November, so I spent most of my time studying, having group meetings and filming for the project. However, the workload was not as heavy as I thought it would be, but it was probably different for each module. It was getting cold in mid-November so remember to wear more clothes at that time. Since the Christmas market starts quite early in the UK, I went to the one in Exeter near the cathedral and had some really delicious churros with my friends.

We also went to a place called Noda's Waffles and had egg waffles, so if you miss the food in Hong Kong you can give it a try, it was quite good. We also watched *Frozen 2* in the movie theatre in Exeter, although the theatre was quite old with its equipment, it was still acceptable.

December

Most of the deadlines for my essays and projects are in the beginning of December, so after handing in all the assignments, I went to a 14-day trip with my friends. We went to Austria, Vienna, Prague, Krakow and Paris. My favorite place in the whole trip is Hallstatt, the view was amazing as it was snowing before we arrived, the only thing is that the weather was really cold that day. Another place I really enjoyed going was Disneyland in Paris, my friends and I spent Christmas Eve there and the atmosphere was fantastic. Although there was a strike at that time and all the services of the transport system ceased, we still had a great time in Paris.



January

After the long trip, I came back to Exeter and revised for the final exam. I left Exeter on 11th January and went to London with my friends for a day. I had Korean barbeque and bubble tea in China Town and they were really good. I also had a trip with my family in Edinburgh and London, it has been 4 months since I saw my family and we had a great time in the UK. I took the flight on 21st January back to Hong Kong.



Part II – General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

Visa application is not required for those who are holding a HKSAR passport. There is no need to apply for visa if you are only staying for no more than 6 months. Remember to show your acceptance letter from the UoE if the officer asks you to do so in the immigration border.

2. Orientation Activities

There are lots of orientation activities during the Fresher's Week, such as the admission talk for exchange students, orientation talk of your school, university tour and different societies' booths and tasting sessions. There will be a handbook with the schedule of the talks and booths, it is very useful, remember to take that handbook and plan your week with that.

3. International Services & Activities

I joined the Global Chums Mentoring program where a mentor will be assigned to us who would help you familiarize with the university. There were social events like Bingo night with your mentor, but the arrangement was not that good, so I would not recommend joining Global Chums. There are also societies like the Hong Kong Society or Hong Kong PASS society if you want to meet Hong Kong students in UoE. My friends and I joined activities hold by the International Society, which is also another choice you can choose from.

4. Accommodation

Since the other exchange students from HKUST and I thought that the hall residence in UoE was very competitive for exchange students, we found a house for four of us in AirBnB, but after we paid for the deposit, we all received hall offers from UoE, so it was actually quite easy to get it. The house we lived in was located in Brook Green Terrace and it was around 15-minute walk to the university, and very convenient as there are many restaurants and supermarket near us.

5. Courses Registration

UoE will send you a study plan for you to list out all the modules that you plan to take there, you can fill in as much modules as you want and they will arrange for you. Students are required to take 60 credits for one semester, which is usually four modules. Before the semester starts, UoE will send a confirmation email for your module choices and the school you are in. You can change your modules after arriving the university, there is a link from the email for adding or dropping courses for business school.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

I would say that the teaching methods are quite similar to HKUST for the courses I took. Discussions are required in tutorials, where you have to prepare for a case to

discuss at that time. However for assessment methods, although they do have mid-terms and final exams like we do, most of the courses have essays or reports as assignments. For me, I only had one final exam but essays for all the courses I took. There is an app called iExeter where you can find learning materials and take attendance using it.

7. Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are quite a lot of gym centers in the university and the city, but all of them are not free and you need to make a monthly or yearly subscription to use their services.

8. Finance & Banking

I opened a bank account in HSBC UK as I find it very convenient when you do grocery shopping in the supermarket, or any other shops, because debit cards are widely accepted for payments. To open an account, you have to request for a bank letter in the Forum in UoE or download the bank letter from the iExeter app. Then, you can make a reservation to meet the staff from HSBC, bring the letter with you and he will help you with the account.

9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

As aforementioned, I joined three social clubs during the Fresher's Week, they all require membership fee. The clubs I joined would hold social gathering events such as dinner in pizza restaurants or game nights. They are great chances for you to meet new friends.

10. Health & Safety

NHS health centre is available in UoE, you have to make a registration beforehand. Exeter is quite safe in general, but remember to pay extra attention to your safety if you are traveling in Europe.

11. Food

There are a lot of restaurants in Exeter, but they are quite expensive, so I would prefer buying ingredients in local supermarkets like Tesco, Co-op, Sainsbury's or Asian supermarket to cook for myself. If you miss Asian food, there are also Asian restaurants in the city and they are quite good.

12. Transportation

Exeter is a small city where usually you can arrive restaurants, shops and stores within walking distance. You can also choose to ride a bike in Exeter, there are bike rentals located in the university. There are also local buses operated by Stagecoach. For travelling in the UK, I suggest downloading the *Trainline* app to find the best transportation method.

13. Climate

The temperature from September to October is not very cold, but it becomes cooler in November and afterwards, especially in the morning and night, it is quite cold to walk back to school if you have morning lectures. It also rains a lot in the UK and it was quite windy in Exeter.

14. Communication

I used the monthly sim card provided by Three, you can top-up the card when you do not have enough balance.

15. Cautionary measures

There are some drunk people or homeless people asking for money at nights sometimes, so be careful of your safety if you go out at night.

Part III – Items to Bring

Acceptance letter from the university
Passport
HKID card
Laptop
Phone
Chargers
Bags
Sweaters
Thick coats or jackets
Camera
Medicine

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

Module list for business school

<https://business-school.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/modules/>

iExeter

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/students/iexeter/>

Trainline (for transportation)

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

University of Exeter Exchange Inbound Website

<https://www.exeter.ac.uk/studyabroad/inbound/>